

THE PRESCRIBING OF SPECTACLES. By ARCHIBALD STANLEY PERCIVAL, M.A., M.B., B.C., Cantab., Senior Surgeon to the Northumberland and Durham Eye Infirmary. Pp. 159; 24 diagrams. Bristol: John Wright & Sons, Ltd.; London: Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent & Co., Ltd.; New York: William Wood & Co., 1910.

THIS book must have been written for those who are already acquainted with the subject; it is far too concise for the beginner, so that all it is likely to impart to the reader capable of understanding it are certain views and practices peculiar to the author, or perhaps to his country generally; thus, in the shadow test the concave mirror is preferred to the plane; two or three drops of a solution containing 8 grains of homatropine and 4 grains of cocaine to the ounce every quarter of an hour will paralyze the accommodation. In ordering glasses for hypermetropia, it is usually sufficient to deduct 1 D from the total hypermetropia if atropine, and 0.75 D if homatropine is used. The author would do away with the word presbyopia, under which term, if used at all, should be included hyperopia acquisita. The two-thirds rule is recommended in the correction of defective accommodation. He objects to Landolt's allowance of one-third of the absolute range of convergence.

The last chapter in the book gives the optical formulæ as applied to the constants of the eye, correcting lenses, size of images, etc., very interesting to the reader who is fairly well acquainted with elementary optics and understands the meaning of the formulæ and how they are derived; to others, among whom we fear is to be placed the great majority of students of ophthalmology, it is a closed chapter. Several tables are added in an appendix; one gives the squares of numbers from 10 to 100, another the values of the trigonometrical functions.

T. B. S.

A TREATISE ON DISEASES OF THE EYE. By JOHN ELMER WEEKS, M.D., Professor of Ophthalmology in the University and Bellevue Hospital Medical College (Medical Department of the New York University). Pp. 944; 528 engravings and 25 full-page plates in colors. New York and Philadelphia: Lea & Febiger, 1910.

THIS extensive work covers the entire field of ophthalmology. The style is singularly clear. Those parts which are usually difficult of comprehension, such as the development of the eye and certain parts of the anatomy, are so presented that even the beginner should have no difficulty in getting clear ideas. It is, moreover, thoroughly up to date. The microbic affections, as is to be expected

from its distinguished author, are especially well presented. Even the trachoma bodies are figured and described. We have failed to find any reference to the Wassermann reaction.

The removal of the clear lens in high myopia is stated to be now fully recognized in suitable cases, although it has not fulfilled the expectations of those who closely followed Fukala. While we are told that it should be employed only in carefully selected cases, how the selection is to be made is not clearly stated. The author advises, as a rule, that the total hyperopia should not be corrected except in cases of marked esophoria and strabismus. Early full correction of myopia is advocated. Before prescribing prisms for the correction of heterophoria, the advice is given to note the behavior of the eye under the correction of the ametropia, as the heterophoria, especially esophoria, may disappear when the error of refraction has been corrected. The necessity for a cycloplegic may be inferred from the text; it might be as well to make a direct statement to that effect. The most practical test for determining the refraction in intelligent patients is declared to be subjective examination with the trial lenses; the objective tests are valuable aids.

Among the newer subjects dealt with is arteriosclerosis. A short chapter is devoted to disease of the accessory sinuses as related to the eye.

The work is singularly free from slips of the pen and careless proofreading. Indeed, we have not come across a single instance of the latter. We do note, however, an inversion of words on page 122, where it is stated that in case of paralysis of the third nerve the *afferent* part of the reflex arc is interfered with, while the *efferent* part is intact.

The mechanical execution of the book leaves nothing to be desired. The type and paper are admirable. The numerous engravings are just what is needed to complete the descriptions. Most of the colored plates, of which there are 25, are unexceptional.

The work is to be recommended to everyone interested in the subject, from the undergraduate in medicine to the specialist in ophthalmology, for both of which classes the author tells us he has designed his work.

T. B. S.

THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF ABORTION. By FREDERICK J. TAUSSIG, A.B., M.D., Lecturer in Gynecology in the Washington University; Obstetrician to the St. Louis Maternity Hospital, etc. Pp. 172; 59 illustrations. St. Louis: C. V. Mosby Co., 1910.

THERE can be no difference of opinion of the importance of the subject of which this little volume treats, since there is probably